

The Ranger Review

Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, & Tuzigoot National Monuments

A Culture of the Living Past

By Ranger Anne Worthington

“And this is what they would use to kill a mammoth,” explained Amil Pedro of the Gila River Indian Community near Phoenix, Arizona as he intently flakes a replica Clovis point. Mr. Pedro was demonstrating the art of making bows, arrows, and chipped stone as part of a special June program at Montezuma Well near Rimrock, Arizona.

The Cahuilla and Quechan artist worked for years as a tracker for the Search and Rescue Unit of the Maricopa County Sherriff’s Office. After retirement, he returned to his first love of art and teaching young students the importance of traditional crafts and Native language preservation. His class instruction on the Gila River and Quechan Reservations is fashioned to reintroduce the language through art projects.

Students at Montezuma Well, a detached unit of Montezuma Castle National Monument in Camp Verde, AZ., were presented with a hands on opportunity to create their own stone projectile points through careful shaping of the tool and meticulous re-touching of the edges.

“See how much work it was to get dinner? They weren’t able to go to a grocery store each day and they had to work together as a community,” explained Mr. Pedro. “You put

all this time and effort into making your tools, you are going to take care of them, aren’t you?” he added as students headed home with their new creations.

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments in central Arizona have offered several programs this year connecting visitors with cultural life ways of the past. Special Junior Ranger Camps are being offered at Montezuma Well with hands on activities, games, and demonstrations developed through the expertise of the Monument’s summer Teacher-Ranger –Teachers, rangers, and park archeologists.



Amil Pedro showing Ranger Rex Vanderford how to make a Clovis Point at Montezuma Well. Photo by Anne Worthington.

At the Edge of Night

By Ranger Julia Greer

Have you ever looked around and wondered what Montezuma Well is like at night? Fortunately as a Ranger, I am able to experience the National Monument when all our visitors have left for the day and the walkways are silent.

One evening as I walked down the trail that visitors walk down daily, I saw a glimpse into a magical world unseen by most. Two large hawks danced in the rays of the sun setting over the rim of the Well. Their calls echoed against the rocks and bounced around the walls surrounding me.



The golden orange of the sun’s sinking rays lit the walls of the ancient homes resting in the interior of the Well. The nooks and cracks in the walls are illuminated by this light; sculpting a new image of a site seen so clearly in the day. The mystery of these dwellings are enhanced by this new setting.

While here in the silence, there is



always a moment of appreciation. There is an understanding of the rarity of these encounters.

Through the hustle and bustle of daily routine, we sometimes forget that to be still and just to listen is a necessary essence of our humanity. That silence is a gift; a priceless one that is quickly disappearing.

The National Park System preserves these lands throughout our nation so that these areas of stillness can be preserved and survive for the next generations. I am increasingly aware of the fact that these islands of tranquility are becoming fewer and further apart as humanity continues to grow and expand.

The next time you have the privilege of going to a National Park, imagine what it’s like when people aren’t there. In fact, find a quiet place to sit somewhere and close your eyes and breath in the stillness. Imagine how these protected lands are transformed in their tranquility and realize how precious these places truly are.



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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Park Happenings & Funny Pages

By Ranger Laura Albert

The Ranger Review is designed to give you more information about what to see and do while visiting our sites. We hope that you enjoy seeing our parks from a Ranger’s point of view!

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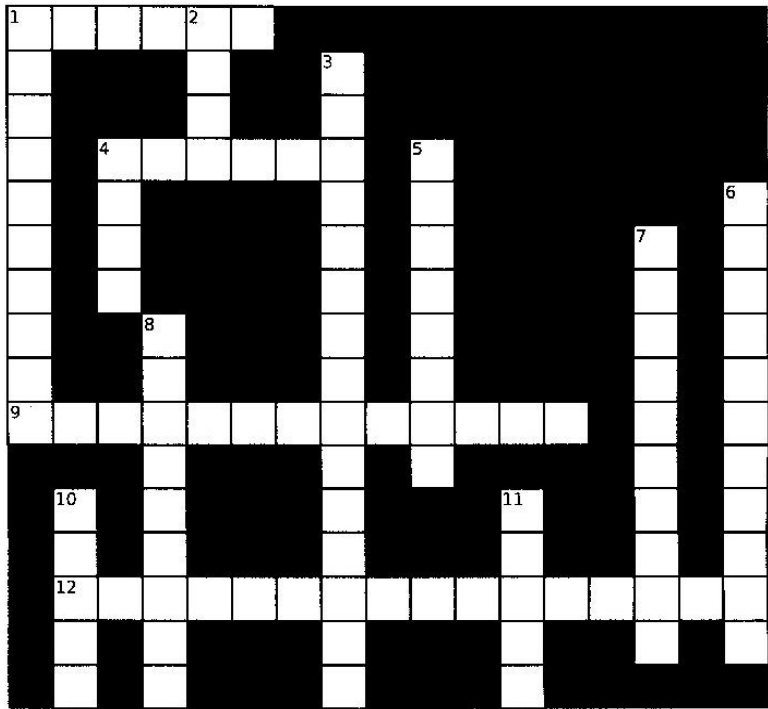
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Jr. Ranger Page

Ancient Valuables

Use the puzzle below to find out what was valuable to the Ancient Sinaguan peoples and compare that to what is valuable to you today!



- Across**

1 The shadiest of the Three Sisters.

4 Grown and woven to make clothes.

9 Bright red and talks back.

12 Tall and white, broad leaved tree.
- Down**

1 Lives in water, arrived by trade.

2 Used to flavor food and for trade.

3 Can't make flour without this.

4 The tallest growing of the Three Sisters.

5 Black and sharp, used to hunt.

6 Large and winding, wet and blue.

7 Tall and shady, white in the spring.

8 Valuable blue gemstone.

10 Eaten as pods or stewwed.

11 Banana or soap tree, fibrous.

View Through the Lens

Upcoming Events: July 18-31, 2010

July 20-23, 2010
Junior Ranger Camp 5 at Montezuma Well National Monument. Registration Required.

July 26, 2010
Junior Ranger Mini-Camp at Montezuma Castle National Monument. Registration Required.



Historical photo from 1968 of the scuba diving team at Montezuma Well National Monument gearing up for their underwater adventure.

Did you know?



Turquoise was not mined here in the Verde Valley by the Sinaguan peoples. They actually mined salt and traded the salt for this valuable gemstone. Prized for it's brilliant blue coloration, turquoise is commonly found around copper and aluminum deposits and is formed by the combination of these two metals and water percolating and solidifying in rock fissures. Today, it is still a valuable gemstone that is prized by peoples all over the world, but especially in the Southwest.